

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A bridging clutch for a hydrodynamic torque converter, said bridging clutch comprising:
 3. a first converter component having a first friction area; and
 4. a friction lining carrier carrying a first friction lining, wherein said first friction lining and said first friction area can be shifted into working connection by means of an engaging movement and can be separated by means of a disengaging movement, said first friction lining having a radially inner side provided with at least one radially inward facing first opening with an inflow area and an outflow area for the passage of transport medium, each said first opening being open continuously between said inflow area and said outflow area.
1. 2. A bridging clutch as in claim 1 wherein said friction lining carrier has at least one recess aligned with a respective said at least one opening, each said recess essentially conforming to the respective said opening in shape and dimensions.
1. 3. A bridging clutch as in claim 1 wherein said friction lining carrier has at least one recess aligned with a respective said at least one opening, each said recess essentially conforming to the respective said opening in shape, but having smaller dimensions than the opening.
1. 4. A bridging clutch as in claim 1 further comprising a second converter component having a second friction area, said friction lining carrier carrying a

3 second friction lining and being situated axially between said first and second converter
4 components so that second friction lining and said second friction area can be shifted
5 into working connection by means of said engaging movement and can be separated by
6 means of said disengaging movement, said second friction lining having a radially inner
7 side provided with at least one radially inward facing second opening with an inflow area
8 and an outflow area for the passage of transport medium, each said second opening
9 being open continuously between said inflow area and said outflow area, each said
10 second opening being axially aligned with a respective said first opening, said carrier
11 having at least one recess which forms a flow connection between respective said first
12 and second openings.

1 5. A bridging clutch as in claim 4 wherein each said recess is located
2 within a circumferential area over which the respective said openings extend.

1 6. A bridging clutch as in claim 1 wherein said friction lining carrier is
2 free of interruptions in an area over which each opening extends.

1 7. A bridging clutch as in claim 1 further comprising a second
2 converter component having a second friction area, said friction lining carrier carrying a
3 second friction lining which is axially opposed from said first friction lining, wherein said
4 second friction lining and said first friction area can be shifted into working connection
5 by means of said engaging movement and can be separated by means of said
6 disengaging movement, said second friction lining having a radially inner side provided
7 with at least one radially inward facing second opening with an inflow area and an

8 outflow area for the passage of transport medium, each said second opening being
9 open continuously between said inflow area and said outflow area.

1 8. A bridging clutch as in claim 7 wherein said friction lining carrier has
2 an annular shape with an inner circumference, each said first opening being axially
3 aligned with a respective said second opening and being shaped and dimensioned as
4 the axially aligned second opening, whereby a flow connection is established between
5 the openings at said inner circumference of said carrier.

1 9. A bridging clutch as in claim 1 wherein each said opening in the
2 friction lining has a radially outer contour which proceeds radially inward in opposite
3 circumferential directions from a crest point to said inflow area and said outflow area,
4 wherein the friction lining does not have a radial boundary for the opening on the
5 radially inner side of the outer contour of the opening.

1 10. A bridging clutch as in claim 9 wherein said friction lining carrier has
2 at least one recess aligned with a respective said at least one opening, each said
3 recess having a radially outer contour which proceeds radially inward in opposite
4 circumferential directions, wherein the friction lining carrier does not have a radial
5 boundary for the opening on the radially inner side of the outer contour of the recess.

1 11. A bridging clutch as in claim 10 wherein the radially outer contour of
2 each said recess is essentially coincident with the radially outer contour of the
3 respective opening.

1 12. A bridging clutch as in claim 10 wherein the crest point of the
2 radially outer contour of each said opening in the friction lining is radially outside of the
3 crest point of the respective recess in the friction lining carrier.

1 13. A bridging clutch as in claim 12 wherein the opening in each said
2 lining is circumferentially larger than the opening in the respective said recess.

1 14. A bridging clutch as in claim 12 wherein the radially outer contour of
2 each said opening terminates at its inflow and outflow area at the same radial points as
3 the outer contour of the respective said recess terminates at its inflow and outflow area.